

WINTER 1999

PREVENTION WORKS!

NEWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

The Power of Private Funds

CTF is a unique organization because it is a public-private partnership. This means that CTF can receive public funds *and* raise essential private dollars as a nonprofit agency. Private support from foundations, corporations, and individuals plays a critical role in CTF's ability to fund, evaluate, and promote effective strategies that strengthen families.

The Massachusetts
Children's Trust Fund
(CTF) is a public-private
partnership whose sole
purpose is to mobilize
segments of the community
to prevent child abuse and
neglect by strengthening
and supporting families.

Evaluating Programs

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's three-year grant of \$400,923 and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's three-year grant of \$360,000 enable CTF to vastly expand the evaluation of the Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Program.

Funding Local Programs

Private funds help CTF to reach a greater number of families. Grants totaling \$22,500 from the Harold Brooks Foundation and a \$10,000 grant from the Zell Foundation gave CTF additional resources for expanding MELD Young Moms in Brockton. This money enabled MELD to double the number of groups offered for mothers and their children.

Continued inside

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families * Preventing Child Abuse

Friends of Children's Trust Fund

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Spotlight on Success: Nurturing Program, Fitchburg

The Nurturing Program is a nationally recognized parenting education and support program for families. CTF has funded the Nurturing Program as one of its comprehensive parenting education models for the past two years in Fitchburg.

The Nurturing Program takes a unique approach to parenting education and support by working with the entire family. While parents meet as a group to develop their nurturing skills, the children meet with others their own age to learn the same skills. For a portion of each session, the participants of all ages come together to share a family activity and a meal. Having children involved in the program encourages the parents to stay involved. Parents are more motivated to participate on a regular basis when they know their children want to attend.

"I was going to stay home tonight because I had a busy day, but my kids really wanted to come to the program tonight."

*Parent participant,
The Nurturing Program,
Fitchburg*

The Fitchburg Safe and Healthy Neighborhood Coalition chose L.U.K. Crisis Center, Inc. to use CTF funding to provide the Nurturing Program to Cleghorn neighborhood families. This funding allows them to run two four-month groups each year, one for English-speaking and one for Spanish-speaking families.

Parent Success Stories

This program has improved the lives of many participating parents.



As a result of the Nurturing Program, parents give back to the community.

- ◆ Amy Babineau and Ana Melendez, coordinators of the program, noted that some parents have subsequently moved into leadership positions in the Cleghorn Neighborhood Association.
- ◆ One couple who participated in the English-speaking group moved on to become facilitators for the Spanish-speaking Nurturing Program, "Crianza Con Carino."
- ◆ One dad whose self-confidence and leadership skills have been bolstered by his participation has become a male outreach worker for the area's Healthy Families newborn home visiting program.
- ◆ Some parent participants are now working toward and receiving their GEDs.
- ◆ Because their experience in the Nurturing Program was so meaningful, many parents have come back to subsequent meetings to volunteer.

"It is unbelievable to watch the growth of these parents, not only in their parenting skills, but in their self-confidence."

*Amy Babineau, coordinator,
The Nurturing Program,
Fitchburg*

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Parenting Education Conference A Success!

A sold-out crowd of over 800 participants attended the sixth annual conference *A View From All Sides*, held on November 2, 1998. This conference provided an in-depth examination of current theories and promising practices in the field of parenting education and support.

Keynote speaker Sylvia Ann Hewlett, author, economist and President of the National Parenting Association, gave an inspiring and thoughtful speech about *The War on Parents*, a book she co-wrote with Cornel West.

From her perspective as an economist, she highlighted the economic hardships facing today's parents and the gaps in public policy in addressing parents' needs. One of the solutions she suggested was that parents use their power to vote to influence change.



Brenda Garton, WWLP-TV 22 Springfield, was honored at the conference for her work on behalf of families. Pictured, L to R: Suzin Bartley, CTF Executive Director, Garton, and Susan Jones, CTF parenting program leader, ARC of Franklin County.

"Based on the 1996 election, only 32 percent of all parents voted," said Hewlett. "There are 62 million parents in the United States. We need to encourage young parents by telling them that they have power if they come together with one voice."

CTF's next conference, the two-day *Family Support Institute*, will be held on April 5 & 6, 1999 at the Royal Plaza in Marlboro.

The Power of Private Funds

Continued from front page

Raising Public Awareness

Private funding makes it possible for CTF to reach families with public education messages. A donation from The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company sponsored television ads to promote CTF's Healthy Families program. Compaq Computer provided CTF with a grant that will pay for posters and calendars for CTF's fatherhood initiative.

Individuals Make A Difference

Individual support is also vital to CTF. A special event organized by community members in Hampshire and Franklin counties raised over

\$16,000 for CTF. All funds raised were directed into local programs, \$5,000 of which was donated to Valuing Our Children in Athol/Orange. Subsequently, the John W. Boynton Fund matched this private support with a \$5,000 grant.

These examples illustrate how CTF, as a public-private partnership, can blend public, foundation, corporate, and individual dollars to benefit greater numbers of parents and children.

A Gala Evening at the Ritz!

Over 250 guests enjoyed the festivities at the 1998 Gala Friendraiser in October. The event, which was held at the Ritz-Carlton Boston, raised over \$95,000.

Mark your calendars now for CTF's 1999 Gala Friendraiser, scheduled for November 20 at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston. The event promises to be bigger and better than ever!



CTF board members Dr. Betsy Busch and Donaldda Silva peruse some of the exciting silent auction items.



Jay Stackhouse and Jeremy Williams, guests from Alkan & Levine, pause for a photo during the cocktail reception.



Local media stars pulling for kids in Massachusetts! (L to R): JAM'N 94.5 FM's Ralphie Marina; Karen Marinella, WB56; Debbi Wrableski, New England Sports Network; Katy Abel, WHDH-TV/7News; and Jimmy Young, New England Cable News/WEEI. Standing behind the wagon is Margie Reedy, New England Cable News.



CTF board member Jae Carter leads the "canga line" across the dance floor.



Gala chairperson Beverly Pazuk and husband Stephen enjoy the festivities.



Rager and Karen Danaghue's table gets in on the bidding during the live auction.

RESOURCES

Fall River Art Contest Under Way

The annual Fall River Art Contest for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in Greater Fall River was recently launched. The theme for the art contest is "Draw a picture of your family enjoying an activity together."

School children from Fall River, Westport, Swansea, and Somerset are invited to submit one entry each by February 10, 1999. Entry forms are available at each school, the YMCA of Greater Fall River, and all Stop & Shop locations in Fall River and Somerset. Some of the children's artwork is printed on greeting cards. *(See story on back page.)*

Winners will be announced at the Annual Fall River Family Fun Day at the YMCA of Greater Fall River on Saturday, April 17, 1999. The event is FREE and open to the public!

Hampshire/Franklin Counties Dinner April 29th

The 3rd Annual Friendraiser Dinner & Auction in Northampton is set for Thursday, April 29, 1999 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Depot Restaurant. Last year the event grossed over \$16,000, which funded family support programs in Hampshire and Franklin counties.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person or \$1,000 to sponsor a table of eight. *(See cover article on private funds.)*

Please call Emily Docken at ext. 310 for more information about our community events.

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ **The John W. Boynton Fund** granted \$5,000 for the Athol/Orange Family Center.

★ **Compaq Computer Corporation** granted \$10,000 for promotional material dedicated to the needs and interests of fathers.

★ **The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** granted \$360,000 for three years for evaluation of the Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Program.

★ Over 60 CTF volunteers took part in the annual **Hallowscream** event in October at Riverside Park in Agawam. The event raised over \$1,200 to support CTF programs in Western Massachusetts.

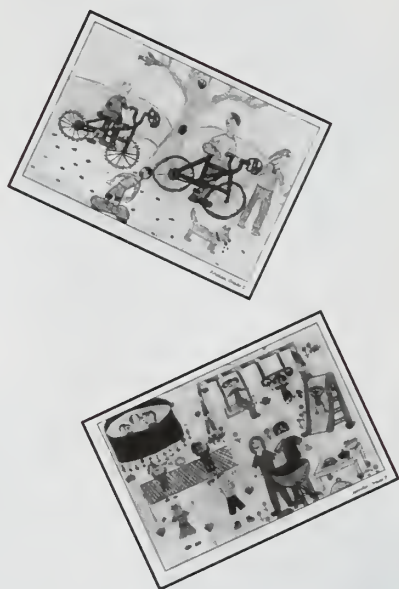
★ **The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company** donated printing services for the Fall River Art Contest Entry forms.

★ **The Zell Family Foundation** granted \$10,000 for the expansion of the MELD Young Moms program in Brockton.

Purchase Colorful CTF Greeting Cards!

Now you can help CTF support families when you send greeting cards to family and friends. Each package includes five different cards that feature unique children's crayon drawings! These designs were created by third through fifth graders who participated in CTF's annual Fall River Art Contest. Cards are blank inside—use them for birthdays, thank-yous, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and more! Each pack comes with five blank envelopes.

Cards can be ordered for \$5/pack of five. **Please send checks payable to the Children's Trust Fund, attention: CTF Greeting Cards.** For more information, please call Lindsay Greene at ext. 312.



(Cards not pictured in actual colors)

Funds Available for Parenting Education and Support Programs

Each year, CTF offers grant awards of up to \$2,500 for community-based parenting education programs. To apply for funding for FY 2000, look for the Request for Responses (RFR) on <http://www.comm-pass.com/>. The RFR can be found within the Open Solicitations section of the Office of Child Care Services.

Family Support Training Center WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 29, 1999, 10:00 am to 12:00, at CTF's office in Boston, *Resources and Strategies for Engaging Fathers in Parenting Groups*. Please call Amy Stack at ext. 309.

Friday, monthly, at CTF's office in Boston and at the Jones Library in Amherst, *Fathers and Family Network*, for professionals who are interested in or currently working with fathers. Please call Jack Miller at ext. 308 for more information.

Ongoing, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., various locations, *Trainings for Parent Educators*. Various topics include: Designing Effective Workshops on Discipline, Incorporating Self-Esteem into Workshops, and Leading a Focused Discussion. Registration is required: priority is given to past and present CTF grant applicants. Please call Amy Stack at ext. 309 for a schedule.

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SUMMER 1999

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NEWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Family Recognition Awards Highlight How CTF Programs Make a Difference

Three years ago, Michelle Irving of Brockton saw herself as a stereotypical "at-risk" mother. She had dropped out of Brockton High School and had begun receiving welfare benefits while trying to raise her newborn daughter. With her confidence and self-esteem diminished, Michelle believed that she had little hope of a positive future for her or her child.

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"I had no dedication to anything. I barely liked myself," Irving said. "I found out about where my life was headed. It was heading in a downward spiral to nowhere."

Willing to try anything new to turn her life around, Irving attended her first meeting of the CTF-funded MELD Young Moms (MYM) program. Irving was initially skeptical and believed that the program couldn't teach her anything that she didn't already know.

"I attended the first group with all my defenses up and armed," Irving said. "I wasn't trying to hear, see or do anything that meant I was agreeing with anything the

Continued inside

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Family Recognition Awards

Continued from front page

facilitators had to say or suggest. In my eyes, I knew everything necessary to be a good mother."

However, after listening to the program's facilitators and re-examining her own life, Irving came to a "startling conclusion."

"If I knew everything I needed, why was I going nowhere fast?" she said.

"The MELD Program has given me so much strength over the past three years that I find it a lot easier to face each day with a smile and be a positive role model to my daughter. If I had to say one thing to the MELD program, it would be 'thank you.'"

*Michelle Irving
MELD Young Moms Program*

That's when she began taking more and more of an active role in the support program that is facilitated by young mothers for young mothers. The MYM program is intended to provide parents with techniques and strategies that will allow them to provide their children with consistent and responsive care.

As she remained involved in the program, Irving regained a sense of

hope and became determined to get her life back on track. She earned her GED and is currently working as a certified nursing assistant with plans to take nursing classes next year. Irving attributes her success to the MYM program for offering her the support at a time when she needed it the most.

Irving is one of three parents who were recognized in April at CTF's annual Family Support Institute (FSI) in Marlborough. Rose Marie Smith of Springfield, Pauline Thompson of Orange, and Irving were each presented with Family Recognition Awards by Massachusetts First Lady Jan Garnett Cellucci for using CTF-funded programs to strengthen their families. Smith participates in the Initiatives for Educational Success literacy program in Springfield and Thompson takes part in programs at the Valuing Our Children Family Center in Athol.

Cellucci's presentation of the awards followed her declaration of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The declaration, made on behalf of Governor Paul Cellucci, opened the second day of this year's FSI that featured two days of seminars with nationally recognized trainers in the field of family support. Over 800 family support providers from throughout Massachusetts attended the event.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Special thanks to Chronicle (WCVB-TV Channel 5, Boston) for recently producing and airing a segment on Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting. The segment highlighted the benefits of home visiting as a successful initiative for improving outcomes for teen parents and their babies. A teen parent and home visitor from the ROCA Healthy Families program were featured.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

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Valuing Our Children, Athol/Orange

In the rural communities of Athol and Orange, which have the state's lowest per capita income and highest teen pregnancy rates, parents face high rates of unemployment and social isolation. Combine this with the everyday stressors families face, and it's easy to understand why parents may need additional support.

Fortunately for families in this area, there is Valuing Our Children (VOC), one of seven Massachusetts Family Centers funded by CTF. VOC provides universal family support programs to families with young children.

With its main location in a storefront on Main Street in Athol, VOC offers "a welcoming, stop-in-and-see-us feeling," according to Jack Miller, Associate Director of Programs and Evaluation for CTF.

"What we do is try to stop the feelings of isolation by offering a different way of thinking and parenting. We try to create a situation for parents where things are happening for them rather than to them."

*Joanna Fisher
Director, VOC*

VOC allows parents to connect with other parents through a vast array of services, including parenting education courses, parent-child activities, home visiting, a lending library, and parent leadership and volunteer development programs.

Also available at VOC is the innovative Nurturing Program that provides participants with extensive parenting education and support while helping them to examine the manner in which they were parented.



Participants in VOC's Nurturing Program

"We see a lot of parents who were not parented very well and don't have a lot to draw from," said Joanna Fisher, Director of VOC. "The Nurturing Program gets them to look back at their own childhood where they, many times, have to encounter very unpleasant memories. The goal is to get them to consciously think about making a positive change in the way they parent."

Although VOC has helped hundreds of families since opening in 1993, its staff and many volunteers realize that there is always more work to be done.

"It's slow work," said Fisher. "It's labor-intensive, but we feel that every little bit nudges them along the line toward the nurturing end of the parenting spectrum rather than toward the abusive end."

In all, VOC provides a lifeline for parents who face the many challenges of parenting in a rural area.

Pauline Thompson of Athol, who participates in a number of VOC programs, said, "VOC helped me change my life, and I know that from the Board of Directors to staff, they really do care. I thank them for supporting me and my family."

For information on a Family Center in your area, contact CTF at (617) 727-8957 or 1-888-775-4KIDS.

Spring Events Raised Funds, Brought Families



Three parents of CTF-funded programs receive Family Recognition Awards from Massachusetts First Lady and CTF board member Jon Garnett Cellucci. Tap row from left to right: CTF board member Betsy Busch; Jan Garnett Cellucci; program director for Valuing Our Children (VOC) in Athol/Orange Jaanna Fisher; and CTF executive director Suzin Bartley. Bottom row from left to right: Award winner Rose Marie Smith from Initiatives for Educational Success (IES) program in Springfield; IES program coordinator Marjorie Hurst; award winner Poulaine Thompson from VOC; award winner Michelle Irving from the MELD program in Brackton; and MELD program facilitator Jocelyne DeGrace.



CTF associate director of programs and evaluation Jack Miller (right) poses with James Ayers at this year's Hampshire and Franklin counties Advocate Awards Nominees Reception at The Depot restaurant in Northampton. Thirteen residents from Hampshire and Franklin counties, including Ayers, State Representative Nancy Flavin and WWLP-TV anchorwoman Brendo Gorton, were nominated for this year's awards.

State Senator Thomas Norton (right) poses with Skip Dormody, community relations liaison for Fall River Mayor Edward Lambert, and his wife and child at Fall River Family Fun Day sponsored by CTF and the Greater Fall River YMCA. Nearly 300 children and parents from the Fall River area attended the event that featured games, rides, prizes and more. The winners of the "Families Together" Art Contest were also announced.



RESOURCES

Together in Support of Child Abuse Prevention

CTF volunteers Karl Kaenig (left) and Kevin Clarna (center) sell a raffle ticket to CTF Healthy Families program manager Sarita Rogers (right) at this year's Swing into Spring event at the Fairmont Capley Plaza Hotel. Over 300 people came to the event that featured music by the Back Bay Rhythm Makers from the White Heat Swing Orchestra.



CTF grassed nearly \$25,000 in April at this year's annual Northampton friendraising dinner and auction at The Depot restaurant. Close to 200 guests attended the event that also featured an awards ceremony honoring winners of the Hampshire and Franklin Counties CTF Committee Awards for their outstanding effort toward helping children. Top row from left to right: Bill Hagan, Matt Krywicki, Jerry Krywicki, and Chuck Bawles; Bottom row from left to right: CTF board member and event co-chair Betty Ann Krywicki; Carol Hyde, and Karen Hagan.



CTF Fall River Committee chair Kim Chauinard (center left) and CTF board member Danolda Silva (center right) lead the parade that began Fall River Family Fun Day.

save the date!

CTF's Annual Gala Friendraiser & Auction

Saturday, November 20, 1999

at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

Contact Emily Docken (617-727-8957 x310) for details.

Seventh annual conference on parenting education, "A View From All Sides: New Perspectives on Parenting Education"

November 1, 1999

at the the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough

The conference is underwritten by CTF.

Look for the brochure in the mail in September.

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ The following companies supported the annual Hampshire/Franklin Counties friendraiser with a donation of \$1,000 or more:

The Depot restaurant, Aquadro & Cerruti, Inc., Blue Ridge/MassWest Insurance, Easthampton Savings Bank, Florence Savings Bank, Sally & Al Griggs, Northampton Cooperative Bank, Paradise Copies, Inc.,

Titan Mechanical Contractors, United Bank and SIS Bank.

★ **Bank Boston** contributed \$20,000 for the MELD Young Dads program in Dorchester.

★ **The James Arnold Fund** of New Bedford contributed \$2,000 in support of ESL instruction for participants in CTF's comprehensive parenting education model, Exitos/AVANCE, for Spanish-speaking parents in New Bedford.

★ **Boston Bruins Wives' Charity**, through its game raffles program, contributed \$5,059 to general operating expenses of CTF.

★ **Friends for Children** contributed \$10,000 in support of preventing child abuse in Boston.

★ **The John P. Laucus Foundation** contributed \$4,000 to purchase board books that will be included in the Welcome Baby bags for Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Program.

★ **The Polaroid Foundation** contributed \$45,000 over three years for Exitos/AVANCE in New Bedford.

★ **The Rotary Club of Fall River** contributed \$500 for Families Together: Family Fun Day.

★ **The TJX Foundation, Inc.** donated \$2,000 in credit towards the purchase of onesies that will also be included in the Welcome Baby bags.

★ The following companies have committed to donating products that will be used in Welcome Baby packages for new parents in the Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Campaign:

American Safety Razor, Block Drug, BlueCross/BlueShield, Houghton Mifflin's Literacy Donation Partnership, Johnson & Johnson, Unilever, Parents Magazine, and Parents' Plus.



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CTF Gains National Recognition as Leader in Parent Education

Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund has been awarded a grant from the Ford Foundation to become the New England "trainer of trainers" for a national parenting program.

The program, called MELD, is an intensive parenting education and support program. It comes complete with a 40-week curriculum, which guides groups of parents through a two-year program.

MELD has demonstrated impressive results and is regarded as one of the best self-help programs for parents in the country. Part of what makes MELD so effective is the training that site leaders and group facilitators receive.

MELD selected CTF as a network because there is "a natural match between the philosophies of our organizations. We've been impressed with Children's Trust Fund's ability to thoughtfully manage programs for parents."

*Julienne Smerlinder,
national program director for MELD*

"No other program has the level of training and support that the MELD program has. The curriculum is first-rate," said Cassie Mitchell, director of programs and evaluation. "MELD is considered by many in the parenting education community to be unmatched in terms of structure and comprehensiveness."

Previously, representatives of parenting groups in New England

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EXPANDING RESOURCES

Join Local Celebrities for a Gala Evening at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel!

CTF's annual Gala Friendraiser is set for Saturday, November 20, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. The formal-attire event includes dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing.

Michael Grogan, president of Grogan & Co., Auctioneers, will oversee the fast-paced bidding for items. TV and radio personalities will participate, and the White Heat Swing Orchestra will provide dance music.

Ticket levels are: Donor, \$150; Junior Donor (aged 35 and under), \$100; Junior Contributor (aged 35 and under) table for 10, \$1,000; Contributor table for 10, \$2,500; Benefactor table for 10, \$5,000.

Call Emily Docken at (617) 727-8957, ext. 310, for more information.

Join us for the fun and festivities while helping to raise money to support children and families in Massachusetts.



Volunteers from Fleet Bank Lend a Hand

A group of 15 volunteers from Fleet Bank recently spent an evening at CTF assembling Welcome Bags for Healthy Families teen parents. The "Team Fleet" volunteers filled 800 canvas bags with baby care supplies and parenting information booklets. Team Fleet is an all-volunteer program created and managed by Fleet employees.

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ **The Federation of Women's Clubs** donated \$6,000 to the Children's Trust Fund, which was equally distributed to seven Family Centers statewide.

★ **Florence Slepian**, a realtor at Innovative Moves Inc. of Jamaica Plain, contributed \$2,600 in support of parenting education programs serving Jamaica Plain.

★ **The Boston Globe Foundation** contributed \$3,000 in support of MELD for Young Dads in Dorchester.

★ **United Way of Massachusetts Bay** granted \$30,000 for the purchase of reading books and educational toys for families participating in the evaluation of Healthy Families.

★ **The Gillette Company** granted \$3,500 to CTF for general operating expenses.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

CTF Gains National Recognition

Continued from front page

had to fly to Minneapolis to receive MELD training and certification.

Now, with CTF's new designation as a MELD network site, local organizations can take advantage of training without leaving New England.

"It also allows CTF to keep program management in closer proximity, which will help to build greater camaraderie between program directors and CTF," said Julianne Smerlinder, national program director for MELD in Minneapolis.

MELD selected CTF as a network because there is "a natural match between the philosophies of our organizations. We've been impressed with Children's Trust Fund's ability to thoughtfully manage programs for parents."

Currently, CTF funds three MELD programs in Massachusetts: MELD for Young Moms and MELD for Growing Families in Brockton, and MELD for Young Dads in Dorchester.

CTF plans to set up MELD programs among its agencies that participate in Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting. This combination will bring together isolated teens, giving them a chance to learn from and get support from each other.

According to Mitchell, six new MELD sites will be created over the next three years, with the expansion set to begin next spring.

"It's going to be a great addition to Healthy Families," Mitchell said. "Many of the Healthy Families sites are looking to complement their home visiting program with a group-based component. This will give them the training and resources to be able to do this."

CTF will be only the fourth site in the country to be designated as a MELD network, Smerlinder said. The Ounce of Prevention Fund in Illinois was the first organization to gain MELD network status in 1986.

The Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) in Arkansas and the Comprehensive Health Investment Program (CHIP) in Virginia gained network status in 1998.

Minnesota Early Learning Design was formed in 1973 in Minneapolis to study strategies for strengthening families. It has since adopted the acronym, MELD, and a tagline—"Blending information and support for parents."

MELD's mission is to strengthen families and to prevent the negative consequences of ineffective parenting. At its most basic level, the program captures the old neighborhood support system of the 1950s and 1960s and improves on the information that parents shared during coffee klatches and over-the-fence conversations.

MELD has developed special curricula and publications for a variety of populations. These include programs for young mothers, young fathers, Southeast Asian parents, parents who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, parents of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and first-time adult parents. These are used in over 20 states.

Parents make a significant commitment when they join a MELD group. Groups run for 40 weeks over two years. Each three-hour session begins with a meal followed by information and support. Group leaders are individuals who once were young mothers, fathers or otherwise in situations like group members.

CTF Announces Funding for 60 Organizations

In its role as the largest statewide funder of parenting and support programs, CTF recently announced 60 grants to organizations across the Commonwealth.

CTF awarded the money through two programs: the Massachusetts Family Center grants and the Parenting Education and Support Program (PESP) grants.

The recipients will use the funds to support and strengthen families with children aged 6 and under.

Family Center Grants

CTF issued a total of \$340,000 to six family centers around the state, with each center receiving up to \$60,000. CTF funds the centers through a federal challenge grant from Community-Based Family Resource and Support Grants.

"We know that thousands of parents and children benefit greatly from the programs of our family centers in their communities," said Jack Miller, associate director of programs and evaluation for CTF.

"What makes family centers strong is their ability to serve a diverse group of people in equally diverse situations," said Miller. "I think that it's a testament to the knowledge and ability of the various staffs."

CTF family centers are open days and evenings. They serve 20,000 families each year through regularly scheduled and ongoing group programs, special events and newsletters.

Activities include parenting education courses, workshops, parent support groups, parent-child activities including playgroups, child care, lending library services, parenting consultations, and recreational and special family events.

The extensive review process included input from volunteer community members and parents.

Recipients of the grants are:

- Center for the Development of Human Services—Milford
- Children's Health Program, Inc.—Great Barrington
- City of Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs—Cambridge
- Martha's Vineyard Community Service—Vineyard Haven
- Medford Family Network/Family Center of the Medford Public Schools—Medford
- Valuing Our Children—Athol.

PESP Grants to Fund 54 Programs

In furthering its efforts to build the capacity of local organizations, CTF awarded grants of up to \$2,500 to 54 community-based organizations for programs that provide group-based support and education to parents.

The programs will help parents learn how to reduce family stress, develop stronger parenting skills, understand child development, learn behavior management techniques, and use community resources to break the isolation many families experience.

The grants will help organizations start new programs and continue existing programs that have been proven effective.

At the Committee for Boston Public Housing in Roxbury, parents will use the money to provide two programs focusing on increasing literacy and decreasing violence in children's lives.

"These are programs that parents asked for but we could not afford without the CTF grant," said Mae Bradley, CBPH executive director.

"Now, the parents feel that they've accomplished an important step in providing a strong foundation for their children," Bradley said.

Organizations Statewide



Locations of communities that received CTF grants.

"Parents face many obstacles in raising their children, and all parents can benefit from support," said CTF executive director Suzin Bartley. "These programs give parents a unique opportunity to support each other and to learn new parenting techniques."

"Every year, we hear from parents who tell us that parenting programs help them become better at managing their children's behavior," Bartley said. "Our goal is to increase the number of easily accessible, high-quality programs available to parents of young children."

CTF funds PESP grants through monies from state appropriations and private donations.

"Helping families grow stronger and more stable is a worthwhile investment in individuals and in our society. I have been pleased to work with the Children's Trust Fund on a variety of statewide initiatives," said state Senate President Thomas E. Birmingham, D-Chelsea.

To find out more about family center grants, call Jack Miller at (617) 727-8957, ext. 308. To learn more about PESPs, call Amy Stack at (617) 727-8957, ext. 309.

PREVENTION WORKS!

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families.

John Iacabani, editor of Prevention Works, can be reached by phone at (617) 727-8957 or (888) 775-4KIDS, by fax at (617) 727-8997, by e-mail at jahni@mctf.state.ma.us, or by mail at 294 Washington St., Suite 640, Boston, MA 02108.

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EXPANDING RESOURCES

Helping Families for the Holidays

Now you can help CTF support families when you send holiday cards and buy holiday presents:

♦ CTF holiday cards feature the colorful crayon drawing of 9-year-old Ashley Jordan of Fall River, with the message "Happy Holidays" inside.

Cost is \$5 for a package of five cards with envelopes, \$9 for a package of 10, and \$18 for a package of 20. Shipping and handling is \$1.50. Please send checks payable to Children's Trust Fund, attention: CTF Holiday Cards.

♦ For holiday shopping online visit www.iGive.com, where you can wrap up your shopping and help CTF. Every time you buy a gift at iGive.com, as much as 12.5 percent of your purchase price could go to CTF. It's quick and easy, and there's no extra cost to you.

You can earn money for CTF by simply browsing iGive.com's listing of over 60 retailers. And, iGive.com will donate \$2 to CTF when you register.

For more information on CTF holiday cards or iGive.com, please call Lindsay Greene at (617) 727-8957, ext. 324.

Bartley Honored by Alliance for Young Families

Suzin Bartley, executive director of Children's Trust Fund, was honored by the Alliance for Young Families for her work to benefit pregnant and parenting teenagers and their children.

The Alliance's board of directors voted to recognize Bartley "for outstanding leadership and thoughtful, persistent advocacy for services to pregnant and parenting teens and their children."

Susan G. Lovelace, executive director for the Alliance, cited the work done by Bartley in forwarding CTF's Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Program.

CTF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October - December

Temperament: Helping Parents Understand their Children, Themselves and the Parent/Child Relationship, 1 to 4 p.m., **Oct. 26** in Florence, and 1 to 4 p.m., **Oct. 28**, in Boston. For past and present CTF grant applicants. Please call CTF at (617) 727-8957 for more information.

A View From All Sides, 8:30 a.m., **Nov. 2**, at the Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, annual parenting education conference. Pre-registration required. Please call CTF at (617) 727-8957 for more information.

Curricula for Working with Teen Parents in Groups, 10 a.m. to noon, **Dec. 1**, in Boston. For past and present CTF grant applicants. Please call CTF at (617) 727-8957 for more information.

Strategies for Leading Diverse Parenting Groups, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Dec. 15**, in Boston, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Dec. 16**, in Worcester. For past and present CTF grant applicants. Please call CTF at (617) 727-8957 for more information.

Fathers and Family Network, noon to 2 p.m., **one Friday each month** at CTF's office in Boston. For professionals who are interested in or currently working with fathers. Please call Jack Miller at (617) 727-8957, ext. 308, to be included on the Fathers and Family Network mailing list and to find out monthly meeting dates. Meetings are offered regularly in western Massachusetts.

